

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 CU-02 AGR-05 OES-03

ERDA-05 FAA-00 DOTE-00 CG-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15

STR-04 CEA-01 L-02 H-02 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

BIB-01 FCC-01 FEA-01 SR-02 ORM-01 DIWY-01 SAM-01

IGA-01 /129 W

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R 251014Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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PARIS FOR UNESCO, ROME FOR FODAG, VIENNA FOR IAEA
AND UNIDO, MONTREAL FOR ICAO

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGSC EAID, UNDP, IS

SUBJECT: CERP 0008-EVALUATION OF UN ASSISTANCE
PROGRAMS

REF: STAE 64907

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1. SUMMARY : UN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN ISRAEL ARE SCHEDULED
TO TERMINATE AT END OF 1976. DESPITE LACK OF PERMANENT
RESREP, COORDINATION AND REVIEW PROCEDURES CONTINUE
TO BE EFFECTIVE. ONLY SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM HAS BEEN

RECRUITMENT OF EXPERTS FOR SPECIFIC PROJECTS. END
SUMMARY.

2. UN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN ISRAEL HAVE BEGUN WINDING DOWN IN ANTICIPATION OF TERMINATION DATE OF DECEMBER 31, 1976, AFTER WHICH TIME ISRAEL WILL PASS INTO DONOR COUNTRY CATEGORY, POSSIBLY AS TRAINING SITE FOR UNDP FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS. FOR THIS REASON ALL PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES BEGUN DURING 1974 WERE OF SHORT DURATION, RESEARCH OR FELLOWSHIP TYPE, DOLLAR VALUE LESS THAN \$50,000, WITH SINGLE EXCEPTION OF ESTABLISHMENT OF INSTITUTE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS (\$799,759). UNDP ACTING RESREP BRUINS PREDICTS ALL BUT FEW OF PROJECTS WILL BE COMPLETED ON SCHEDULE, WITH NONE LASTING BEYOND FIRST HALF OF 1977.

3. FORMER RESREP PETERSON DEPARTED THREE MONTHS AGO, AND REPLACEMENT HAS NOT YET BEEN NAMED. BRUINS, DUTCH NATIONAL IN CHARGE OF OFFSHORE DREDGING PROJECT, HAS FILED POSITION ON PART-TIME BASIS IN INTERIM. FORTUNATELY, ABSENCE OF NEW PROJECTS AND EXCELLENT COORDINATION BETWEEN UNDP AND GOI PREVENT LACK OF FULL-TIME RESREP FROM BEING MAJOR PROBLEM.

4. FOLLOWING ARE SPECIFIC RESPONSES TO TOPICS RAISED BY
PARA 5 REFTEL:

A RESREP HAS COMPLETE CHARGE OF ALL UN SYSTEM TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES. OTHER UN AGENCIES SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO INSPECT THEIR PROJECTS VERY INFREQUENTLY, NO MORE THAN ONCE A YEAR. UNICEF DOES NOT PARTICIPATE IN UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAMMING EXERCISE. UNDP MAKES SOLE DECISION AS TO WHETHER PROJECT IS ACCEPTABLE TO UN, THEN SENDS PROPOSAL ON TO EXECUTION AGENCY. IBRD UNDERTAKINGS ARE NOT COORDINATE WITH UNDP AT FIELD LEVEL. FOR EXAMPLE, BRUINS HAD NO INFORMATION ABOUT NEGOTIATIONS FOR \$35 MILLION IBRD LOAN TO ISRAEL REPORTED HER AS HAVING BEEN CONCLUDED IN WASHINGTON APRIL 11. RELATIONSHIP LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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BETWEEN RESREP AND GOI DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SAPHIR IS EXCELLENT. LATTER HAS BEEN IN JOB FOR SEVERAL YEARS AND SUPERVISED FORMULATION OF CURRENT COUNTRY PROGRAM, WHICH BEGAN IN 1972.

B. COORDINATION FUNCTION FOR ALL EXTERNAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IS PERFORMED WITHIN GOI. TOTAL UNDP FIVE-YEAR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM 1972-1976 AMOUNTED TO ONLY \$5 MILLION. WHILE MANY SPECIFIC RESEARCH PROJECTS AND STUDIES UNDERTAKEN BY UN ARE HIGHLY VALUED BY GOI, IN TERMS OF COST OF ASSISTANCE, UN PROGRAM IS NOT SIGNIFICANT. RESREP DOES KEEP EYE ON SOME SMALL BILATERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, SUCH AS THOSE OF HOLLAND AND SWEDEN.

C. RESREP BELIEVES THAT WHILE IT THEORETICALLY POSSIBLE HE WOULD BE ASKED TO COORDINATE UN ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF ASSISTANCE AREA, THIS IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY DUE TO PRESENCE IN AREA OF OTHER, MORE QUALIFIED UN AGENCIES. SPECIFICALLY, UNRWA FIELD OFFICE IN GAZA AND WEST BANK AND UN OBSERVER FORCES ON GOLAN HEIGHTS AND IN SINAI ARE MUCH BETTER EQUIPPED IN TERMS OF STAFF, VEHICLES, COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO DEAL WITH AD HOC ACTIVITIES SUCH AS DISASTER RELIEF.

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D. COUNTRY PROGRAM IS MOVING SMOOTHLY TO COMPLETION AND ANNUAL REVIEW CONSISTS PRIMARILY OF CONFIRMING THAT PROJECTS ARE PROGRESSING ON SCHEDULE. EXECUTING AGENCY PERSONNEL ARE NOT INVOLVED IN REVIEW NOR ARE REPRESENTATIVES OF DONOR COUNTRIES. RESREP AND GOI TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE DIRECTOR HAVE PROGRAM WELL UNDER CONTROL AND EXPECT ALL PROJECTS TO BE COMPLETED NO LATER THAN FEW MONTHS AFTER FORMAL TERMINATION DATE OF DECEMBER 31, 1976.

E. NO NEW PROJECTS PROPOSED FOR UNDP FUNDING AS COUNTRY
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PROGRAM IS TERMINATING.

F. ADVANCED STATE OF ISRAELI ECONOMY AND CONSEQUENT
SOPHISTICATION PROVIDE BOTH PRINCIPAL ASSET AND MAIN
DIFFICULTY OF PROGRAM. ON POSITIVE SIDE, PROJECTS ARE
CAREFULLY CONSIDERED AND PROPOSALS ARE FORMULATED WITH
GREAT PRECISION. SUCCESS OF PROJECTS IN TERMS OF GATHERING
AND ANALYZING REQUIRED DATA IS NEARLY 100 PERCENT. BRUINS
CITES THREE AS ESPECIALLY SUCCESSFUL: (1) RESEARCH AND
TRAINING IN ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL FOR GROWTH OF HIGH
VALUE CROPS, (2) CENTRAL REFRIGERATION RESEARCH LABORATORY,
AND (3) CENTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH.
ON NEGATIVE SIDE SOPHISTICATION OF PROJECTS HAS OFTEN
MADE EXPERT RECRUITMENT EXCEEDINGLY DIFFICULT. IN SOME
CASES DELAYS OF SIX MONTHS OR MORE IN PROJECT
EXECUTION HAVE RESULTED FROM LONG SEARCH FOR QUALIFIED
AND AVAILABLE EXPERT. BRUINS CITED RECRUITMENT OF US
EXPERTS AS PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT DUE TO WASHINGTON
CLEARANCE PROCEDURES. IN MORE THAN ONE CASE BY TIME
CLEARANCE WAS OBTAINED MAN WAS NO LONGER AVAILABLE.
ONCE EXPERTS REACH SITES, HOWEVER, PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION
IS QUITE EFFICIENT DUE TO AVAILABILITY LOCALLY OF SUPPLE-
MENTARY LAB FACILITIES, SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT, SPARE PARTS
AND SKILLED MANPOWER. HOST COUNTRY COUNTERPART CONTRI-
BUTIONS HAVE BEEN GOOD. FACTORS SUCH AS HOUSING AND
ALLOWANCES HAVE NOT BEEN PROBLEM.

G. RESREP AND GOI DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WORK
TOGETHER AT ALL TIMES AND COORDINATE CLOSELY WHEN
SPECIFIC PROBLEM ARISES. BOTH FEEL THIS CONSTITUTES
SUFFICIENT REVIEW PROCEDURE PARTICULARLY AS COUNTRY PRO-
GRAM WILL SOON TERMINATE. EXECUTIVE AGENCY PERSONNEL
APART FROM CONTRACTORS AT INDIVIDUAL PROJECT LEVEL DO NOT
NORMALLY PARTICIPATE IN PROJECT EVALUATION. PRESENT
PROCEDURES APPEAR TO US TO BE FULLY ADEQUATE. ONLY
POSSIBLE NEED IS FOR FULL-TIME, PERMANENT RESREP TO SUPER-
VISE TERMINATION OF PROGRAM NEXT YEAR. ANNUAL REPORT FROM
OFFICE OF RESREP DATED MARCH 10, 1975 IS SIMPLE STATISTICAL
LIST OF PROJECTS, THEIR NATURE, DATES, VALUE AND LOCATION.
THERE IS NO DISCUSSION OF EITHER PROBLEMS OR
ACHIEVEMENTS.
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H. BRUINS AND HIS STAFF DO NOT BELIEVE THAT ANY OF PRO-

JECTS IN ISRAEL HAVE MEASURABLE IMPACT ON WOMEN. AS NO
NEW PROJECTS ARE ANTICIPATED IT WOULD SEEM TO BE TOO
LATE TO EXPECT ANY IMPROVEMENT IN THIS AREA.

I. APART FROM RECOMMENDING THAT PERMANENT RESREP
BE APPOINTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, WE SEE NO AREAS IN WHICH
FOLLOW-UP IS NECESSARY.

5. COMMENT: ADDITIONAL PROBLEM PARTICULAR TO ISRAEL
STEMS FROM ITS ISOLATED POLITICAL POSITION AT UN AND WITHIN
DEVELOPING WORLD GENERALLY. RESREP IS CONSTANTLY BEING
ASKED TO EXPLAIN UNESCO RESOLUTIONS ON ISRAEL. BRUINS SAYS
HE HAS BEEN ABLE TO AVOID CONTROVERSY, BUT UNDP'S POSITION
IN ISRAEL IS UNDERMINED TO SOME DEGREE BY ANTI-ISRAEL
RESOLUTIONS OF OTHER UN AGENCIES. ARAB BOYCOTT ALSO PLAYS
ROLE IN MAKING RECRUITMENT OF CONTRACTORS MORE DIFFICULT.
SEVERAL INTERNATIONAL CONTRACTING FIRMS WITH INTERESTS IN
ARAB COUNTRIES HAVE DECLINED TO BID ON UNDP PROJECTS IN
ISRAEL. THIS HAS CAUSED SOME DELAYS, SOME COST INCREASES,
AND PERHAPS SOME MINOR REDUCTIONS IN QUALITY.
VELIOTES

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